

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1598

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jeff Carson of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jeff Carson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carson was a highly regarded hitmaker and Academy of Country Music award winner who retired from music to become a police officer; he lived a full life and was a gentleman beloved by all who were fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, born Jeffrey Lee Herndon in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on December 16, 1963, Jeff Carson began his musical career at a young age, singing in church and forming a band in Rogers, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, he eventually moved to Branson, Missouri, then Nashville, where he began recording demos for country music stars such as Tracy Byrd, Tracy Lawrence, Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Mark Wills, and Diamond Rio, among others; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Carson received a recording contract with Curb Records in 1995, and his single "Yeah Buddy" was released to radio soon thereafter, followed up by his No. 1 hit, "Not on Your Love"; his subsequent single, "The Car," was a top-five hit and garnered his first Academy of Country Music Award for Video of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carson had a total of fourteen singles to appear on the *Billboard* chart and enjoyed a successful career in country music for nearly a decade and a half, at which time he retired to become a law enforcement officer with the Franklin Police Department, where he served bravely and faithfully until the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Carson returned to music in 2019, signing a singles deal with MC1 Nashville to recut and release a previously recorded song titled "God Save The World," which appeared on the Music Row Top 40 chart; and

WHEREAS, recently, Mr. Carson had signed with Encore Music Group and was in the studio with Buddy Hyatt recording a specialty album slated for release later this year and including duets with Michael Ray, Darryl Worley, Mark Wills, and Craig Morgan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his passion and devotion to music and serving and protecting the people of Franklin, Jeff Carson was deeply committed to his family, most especially his wife, Kim Cooper Carson; son, Dayton Grei Herndon Carson; mother, Virginia Norton; brother, Steve Herndon; and sister, Karen Spurlock, all of whom will continue to cherish his beloved memory; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carson leaves behind an indelible legacy and many songs and albums that will forever remain touchstones of country music; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jeff Carson of Franklin, reflecting fondly upon his noteworthy career in country music and law enforcement, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Carson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.